

January 21, 2022

COVID-19 Update – January Restrictions

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At the January 18, 2022 Provincial Health Officer COVID update, the December 17, 2021 [Gathering and Events Order](#) was extended and will be reviewed again on February 16, 2022. There is a continued impact on sports tournaments. As such, all ringette tournaments in BC scheduled to be held up to and including February 16, 2022 are now cancelled.

Additional information can be found on the [Province-wide restrictions](#) page. viaSport has also released an updated [Return to Sport chart](#) dated January 17 and have updated their [FAQ's](#).

Below is a summary of the parts of the Order that specifically relate to sport.

Order Updates – January 19, 2022:

- Tournament Cancellation
 - All sport tournaments are cancelled from December 20, 2021 until February 16, 2022
 - Tournament is defined in the Order as:
 - **“sports tournament”** means a single or multi-day gathering of three or more sports teams from **different leagues**, who come together **outside regular league play** for the purpose of the teams playing against multiple other teams, but does **not** include:
 - (a) a gathering where team members compete on an individual basis against members of other teams, or
 - (b) a gathering where the result will decide if a team will advance to play in a national or international competition.
- Indoor organized social events and gatherings of any size are not permitted
- Facility Restrictions
 - Adhere to your Facility’s capacity restrictions and be aware that they may differ from the PHO Order
 - this applies to in-person training such as coaching and officiating clinics, meetings and gatherings
- CSI – Pacific Carded athletes
 - **“high performance athlete”** means a person who is identified by the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific as a high-performance athlete affiliated with an accredited provincial or national sports organization;
 - Any Ringette BC CSI – Pacific Carded athletes may continue to actively train, compete and travel.
- Spectators
 - limited to 50 per cent capacity

- Proof of vaccination required for those 12 years and older;
- Must be seated at sports events
- Masks are required in all indoor public spaces
- Travel:
 - Travel to other provinces and internationally is not recommended at this time.

League Play and Games

The [Gathering and Events Order](#) permits games and league play to continue. Travel within the Province of BC is not restricted.

Teams are able to travel to compete against other ringette teams within their age division and calibre. Teams are only permitted to compete against one other team outside of their league boundaries per trip. If teams choose to travel to an area outside their league boundaries for competition, they must ensure they adhere to rules above and are not engaging in play as outlined in the definition of tournament in the [Gathering and Events Order](#).

For example, if there is only one TORL U16 Club Team and the only options for U16 Club calibre of competition are against teams in the Lower Mainland or the Northern Ringette League, the U16 Club team is permitted to travel to play against one team per trip.

Ringette BC recognizes that for many teams tournaments are the primary form of competition. However, due to the PHO Order restricting tournaments, meaningful competition is impacted. If Leagues, Club Associations or teams are unsure of their options, please contact Ringette BC.

Positive COVID-19 Cases Response (attached)

There has been a number of COVID-19 positive cases in the ringette community since January 1, 2022. Ringette BC has updated the COVID-19 response document to help address questions from Club Associations when a participant reports testing positive or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

As always, anyone, including athletes, referees, coaches, volunteers and spectators, feeling unwell should not be attending any in-person ringette activities.

For more information on self-isolation and self-monitoring, please visit the [BC CDC website](#).

Overall Guidance COVID-19

- Overall Guidance for Proof of Vaccination:
 - For more detailed information about proof of vaccination, [click here](#).
- Communicable Disease Response Plan:
 - Sport Organizations are no longer required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan¹; however, sport organizations should develop a [communicable disease prevention plan](#) as per [WorkSafe BC guidance](#) to reduce the risk of communicable disease.

¹ Unless they have been directed to do so by Regional or Local Health Authorities

- Facilities are implementing safety plans, which all user groups will be expected to follow.
- Liability:
 - The Province of B.C. extended COVID-19 liability coverage for organizations until **December 31, 2022** through the [COVID-19 Related Measures Act \(CRMA\)](#). This protects people and organizations from damages resulting from transmission or exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Lastly, as a reminder, Ringette BC has zero tolerance for any abuse of volunteers, coaches, officials, and members. Anyone found to not be adhering to COVID-19 protocols will be subject to sanctions by Ringette BC as per the [Safety Measures and Consequences document](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Nicole Robb
Executive Director,
Ringette BC

Cc: Ringette BC Board of Directors
Ringette BC Program Director

Relevant links:

[Provincial Health Order – Gatherings and Events Order](#)
[Province –wide Restrictions Government page](#)
[Ringette BC Message Board](#)
[viaSport Return to Sport Page](#)
[Ringette BC COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)

Appendix I

COVID-19 RESPONSE – UPDATED JANUARY 21 2022

Exposure

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, and had attended ringette activities in the preceding five days, they will need to inform their Club Association.

The Club Association will communicate to participants who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Response will vary depending on the age of the participants and the restrictions in place. Please note that regions and Health Authorities may have differing protocols.

Club Associations must notify Ringette BC of COVID-19 exposure events in their Club Association within 24 hours of being advised.

Isolation Requirements and Protocols

Ringette BC is following isolation protocols as outlined by the [BC Center for Disease Control](#). Isolation requirements may vary within the Province of BC by region and Health Authority.

Club Associations should refer to the BC CDC Guidelines for isolation and direct participants to the BC CDC for information on isolation requirements.

The Club Association should consult their Health Authority for guidance if a participant reports testing positive for COVID-19 or is exhibiting symptoms.

As information continues to be updated from the BC CDC and Public Health Ringette BC will do our best to providing updates as they come.

If an individual is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 please do the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#).

Screening Protocols

SCREENING PROTOCOLS AND QUESTIONS

As COVID-19 Safety Plans remain in effect for local Sport organizations in some regions and may be required by facilities operators, the screening questions have been updated.

All Club Associations will need to ensure that as participants arrive for ringette activities at the facility that they are asked the following screening questions. For minors, these questions should be asked with a parent/guardian present by an adult volunteer. Questions should be asked before athletes enter the facility.

Club Associations are welcome to collect Health Check's electronically through online forms or TeamSnap or using the Ringette BC [Health Check form](#).

SCREENING QUESTIONS:

1. Are you exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, sore throat, cough, severe chest pains, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting?
2. Have you travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days and are currently under quarantine order?

If a participant responds YES to any of the above questions, they are not permitted to participate in any ringette activities and should be directed to complete the [BC Self-Assessment tool](#).

For more information visit the [Ringette BC COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) and the [viaSport Return to Sport website](#).